

## Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 COME-00 L-03 SP-02 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 EB-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 MC-02 SS-15 NSC-05 SSO-00

NSCE-00 INRE-00 /058 W

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O P 031136Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6025

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY OSLO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

USCINCEUR PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 2792

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, NL, BE

SUBJECT: F-104 REPLACEMENT: MEETING WITH MOD VREDELING

REF: STATE 128137 AND ASST. SECRETARY SHRONTZ/TANGUY TELECON  
JUNE 2

1. INFORMATION PROVIDED IN REFERENCED COMMUNICATIONS WAS MOST TIMELY AND USEFUL FOR CHARGE'S MEETING THIS MORNING (JUNE 3) WITH MOD VREDELING. AS A RESULT, VREDELING HAD NO PROBLEM WITH THE US-BELGIAN DECISION TO SAY NOTHING PUBLICLY ABOUT VANDEN BOEYNANTS' MEETING WITH SECRETARY SCHLESINGER OR THE PASSAGE OF THE MAY 31 DEADLINE FOR SIGNING OF PRELIMINARY CONTRACT AND MOU. HOWEVER, VREDELING SAID HE WOULD HAVE TO SEND A LETTER IN THE NEXT DAY OR TWO TO THE DEFENSE COMMITTEE OF THE SECOND CHAMBER TO EXPLAIN IN GENERAL TERMS THAT THE GOB'S FAILURE TO MEET THE MAY 31 DEADLINE WOULD NOT RPT NOT INVALIDATE THE US CONFIDENTIAL

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OFFER OR THE GON'S ACCEPTANCE OF IT.

2. VREDELING SAID THAT SUBJECT TO CONCURRENCE OF FONMIN VAN DER STOEL LETTER WOULD BE ALONG THE FOLLOW-

ING LINES: "ACCORDING TO MY (I.E. VREDELING'S) INFORMATION NO  
FORMAL EXTENSION OF THE MAY 31 DEADLINE APPEARS  
NECESSARY SINCE OTHER CONSORTIUM  
MEMBERS HAVE SIGNED THE PRELIMINARY CONTRACT AND MOU.  
AND SINCE A GOB DECISION CAN BE EXPECTED SHORTLY. IN  
OTHER WORDS A DE FACTO EXTENSION OF THE DEADLINE HAS  
OCCURRED WHICH, HOWEVER, WILL HAVE NO CONSEQUENCES  
FOR THE TERMS OF THE US F-16 OFFER".

3. CHARGE SAID HIS PERSONAL REACTION TO THIS LANGUAGE  
WAS FAVORABLE SINCE IT WOULD APPEAR TO MEET VREDELING'S  
POLITICAL NEEDS WITHOUT DOING INJUSTICE TO THE BELGIAN  
DESIRE TO PLAY IT COOL PUBLICLY UNTIL THE GOB HAD MADE  
ITS DECISION. CHARGE TOLD VREDELING HOWEVER THAT  
HE WOULD CABLE TEXT OF LETTER TO WASHINGTON FOR ANY  
COMMENTS IT MIGHT HAVE AS SOON AS VREDELING HAD  
COORDINATED IT WITH VAN DER STOEL.

4. IN RESPONSE TO CHARGE'S QUESTION, VREDELING SAID  
THAT ON THE ADVICE OF BOTH PRIMIN DEN UYL AND LABOR  
PARTY PARLIAMENTARY LEADER VAN THIJN, VREDELING  
WOULD NOT RPT NOT REQUEST CHANGE IN DATE OF PARLIAMENTARY  
DEBATE ON F-16 SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 5. ACCORDING TO  
VREDELING, VAN THIJN HAS SIGNIFICANTLY SOFTENED IN HIS  
OPPOSITION TO THE F-16 AND PRIMIN'S JUDGMENT WAS THAT  
THERE WAS NOW A FAVORABLE POLITICAL MOMENTUM FOR THE  
F-16 IN THE NETHERLANDS WHICH MIGHT BE DISSIPATED  
BY POSTPONEMENT OF THE PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE. THUS,  
VREDELING PREFERRED NOT TO DELAY UNTIL GOB DECISION.  
WITHOUT BEING EXPLICIT VREDELING GAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT  
DEBATE WOULD NOT CAUSE GON MAJOR PROBLEMS AS ORIGINALLY  
ANTICIPATED.

5. VREDELING PRESUMABLY WILL BE HEARING FROM PRIMIN  
TINDEMANS ABOUT VANDEN BOEYNANTS' WASHINGTON VISIT  
SINCE THEY WILL BE LUNCHING TOGETHER TODAY (JUNE 3)  
AT THE BELGIAN AMBASSADOR'S IN THE HAGUE.  
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VREDELING AGREED WITH THE SUGGESTION THAT HE  
USE THE OCCASION TO MENTION HIS LETTER TO THE DEFENSE  
COMMITTEE TO TINDEMANS BEFORE IT IS SENT AND MADE  
PUBLIC.  
TANGUY

CONFIDENTIAL

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Disposition Authority:** buchantr  
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**To:** STATE  
SECDEF INFO BRUSSELS  
COPENHAGEN  
OSLO  
PARIS  
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